

A SMALL KINDNESS.

The Gentle Little Woman Who Gave It Received a Big Reward.

Many years ago, when sewing machines were in their infancy, if indeed they had been invented, a little elderly bachelor entered the parlor of an elderly house and in a very peculiar to him, "made this remark":

"Which of you ladies will lend me a couple of handkerchiefs for me?"

There was a well bred snarl of disapproval, but not unbecomingly so. The only one that broke the silence recommended him to take the handkerchiefs to a seamstress who attended to such work.

"I'm pretty homesick to have a woman folk belonging to you," said the old bachelor, "but I guess I can get along. Thank you, ladies, for your kindness," and he bowed himself out.

At the same moment a maid hand delivered him, and a low voice said in his ear:

"Leave them with me. I—I will see that they are hemmed neatly. I have a friend who will do them for company."

"Thank them," said the old bachelor, "much obliged, I'm sure."

She was a gentlewoman, although she seemed for a living, as all women did at that day who did not teach school.

She replied not to fears of her companions when she sat in the parlor at her work, except to say that it was a small thing for her to do.

"But he is a miser," they persisted. Nevertheless the handkerchiefs were returned and returned to the owner, but did not offer to pay for them, but within the year marry the gentle old who hemmed them.

The thereafter of their married life reads like a fairy story. Both have passed away from the prosperity which surrounded them, but in the heart of the city of London there is a market place that was built with the accumulated interest of the fortune bequeathed to their son, who is no other than Montagu Seymour, the millionaire. This story, unlike most stories, is true.—Detroit Free Press.

LORD RUSSELL'S BASHFULNESS.

The Great English Barrister Was Quite Diffident In His Youth.

In his "Journalist's Notebook" Mr. Paulson Moore tells a story of the early life of Lord Russell. It may, he says, surprise some of those persons who have been unfortunate enough to find themselves witnesses for the prosecution in a case where Lord Russell has appeared for the defense to learn that in his young days he was exceedingly shy.

He has lost a good deal of his early diffidence, or, at any rate, he manages to prevent it betraying itself in such a way as might tend to embarrass a lawyer.

As a rule, witnesses do not find that bashfulness is the most prominent characteristic of his cross examination.

But I learn from an associate of Lord Russell's that when his name appeared on the list to propose or to respond to a toast at one of the dinners of a patriotic society of which my informant as well as Lord Russell was a member he would stand the day nervously walking about the streets and apparently quite unable to collect his thoughts. Upon one occasion the proud duty devolved upon him of responding to the toast, "Ireland a Nation."

Late in the afternoon my informant found him in a condition of disconcerted perturbation and declaring that he had no idea of what he should say, and he felt certain that, unless he got the help of the man who afterward became my informant, he must inevitably break down.

"I laughed at him," said the gentleman who had the courage to tell the story which I have the courage to repeat, "and did my best to give him confidence. 'Sure, any fool could respond to Ireland a nation, and I'll do as well as any other.' But even this didn't give courage," continued my informant, "and I had to sit down and give him the chief points to touch on at his speech. He wrung my hand, and in the evening he made a fine speech, sir. Man, but it was a pity that there weren't more of the party sober enough to appreciate it!"

The Coming Railroad Engine.

"The railroad engine of the future will be a very different machine from those now in use," said T. C. Willoughby. "In the first place, it will be arranged that it will run in a vacuum by means of air pumps. It will be of torpedo shape, in order to offer the least possible air resistance, and the air which goes into the pumps will be utilized as an additional motive power to that obtained from the steam or electricity used. Such an engine could be constructed to make at least 200 miles an hour and would work longer than any now used, for the reason that friction would be reduced to a minimum. A combination of the principles of the present locomotive and of the Penneyer ship would result in a revolution in the mechanical world. I am not an inventor, but I know that such a machine is feasible and will some day be perfected."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Big Concern.

A commercial traveler was bragging about the magnitude of the firm he represented.

"I suppose your house is a pretty big establishment?" said the customer.

"Big? You can see it by its dimensions," boasted the customer, "and for the first time that three cashiers and four bookkeepers were missing. That will give you some idea of the magnitude of our business."—Manchester Guardian.

English Smarts.

First Swell (pretending to mistake for an other rival whom he sees standing in dress clothes at the coatroom of the theater)—Ah! Have you a programme?

Second Swell (up to snuff)—That, my man. I got one from the other fellow.—London Answers.

Dental Electricity.

Electricity is employed nowadays for pulling teeth. To the battery are attached three wires. Two of them have handles at the end, while the third is attached to the forceps. The patient grasps the handles, the electricity is turned on suddenly, and the dentist simultaneously applies his forceps to the tooth. The instant the tooth is loosed it, as well as the surrounding parts, becomes insensible to pain. A jerk, and it is out.—Electricity.

Something She Would Stop At.

"I don't believe that horrid Miss Bolton would stop at anything."

Bob—Did you ever try her with a soda fountain?—Chicago Inter Ocean.

MADE THEM MARRY.

EMPEROR NAPOLEON WAS A MATRIMONIAL DESPOT.

He Compelled Women to Marry to Suit His Interests or Whims—Some of the Disagreeable Alliances Brought About by His Tyrannical Matchmaking.

Among the numerous works to which the revival of the Napoleonic legend has given birth none called "Napoleon and the Ladies." The writer exercises himself to the utmost to transform the rough soldier and despot into a hero of romance, but without success. His relation with his two wives were not remarkable for either consideration or delicacy, and in a scene placed any in his conversation with the ladies of his court which was not far removed from downright vulgarity.

But what tended to make the very name of Napoleon hateful to all young Frenchwomen was his famous conscription of girls, whom he married offhand to his generals without the slightest ceremony. The Marquis de Corgny, on returning to Paris, was ordered to marry his daughter to General Sebastiani. Both mother and daughter protested in vain. Three days after the order the marriage took place at the Tuileries, Napoleon himself giving away the bride. Mlle. Adele de la Rochefoucauld was renowned throughout the west for her grace, beauty and expectations, when she was privately informed by the prefect that Napoleon had decided to marry her Count de de la Rochefoucauld. The lady objected to the count for the best of feminine reasons—namely, that he was neither young nor handsome.

The count, however, was the brother of Prince D'Orthe, the husband of Pauline, the sister of Bonaparte, and the resistance of father and daughter was of no moment, and they were obliged to yield to the will of Napoleon. Count d'Arberg, the descendant of a sovereign family, prefect of the Bouches du Rhone, and one of Napoleon's chamberlains, had two daughters of marriageable age. Napoleon ordered that one should marry General Klein, and the other General Mouton, count de Lobau. The mother of the two young ladies was Countess Solberg, sister of Count Albany, widow of the last of the Stuarts. Fanny Dillon, the daughter of Count Dillon, was ordered to marry General Bertrand. The young lady refused even to see the general, objecting that he was hideous, which unfortunately happened to be the truth. Napoleon was irritated at this conduct and ordered the young lady to be arrested and confined in prison until she consented to marry Bertrand, the monster, as she called him.

The Duc de Launaguais, father of the Duc d'Angoulême, colonel of a regiment of cavalry and an unfortunate bachelor, was ordered by Napoleon, under penalty of dismissal from the army, to marry for with Mlle. Stephanie Taucher de la Laguerie, cousin germain of the Empress Josephine. The young lady as well as the duke objected to the marriage, and the former had the audacity to declare that she not only hated the duke, but was over him and ears in love with a certain M. de Gentry. The marriage between the cousin of Josephine and the duke nevertheless took place, and at the marriage ceremony, when the young lady, in reply to the priest's question, refused to say yes, Napoleon himself deigned to push her head downward to the altar.

After the marriage ceremony, a strangely married couple went to reside at the Hotel de Chimay. But the duchess refused to receive her husband, who, like a reasonable being, posted after his regiment, then serving in Spain. In 1811, he was made prisoner and sent to England, where he remained until the fall of Napoleon in 1814. On his return to Paris the duchess obtained a divorce from the marriage on the ground of restraint, and she finished by marrying the happy M. de Gentry.

The Prince of Hohenzollern, cousin of the king of Prussia, was ordered to marry Antoinette Murat, a cousin of the "Belle Sabour" and king of Naples, and although both the prince and Antoinette declared that they mutually hated one another the marriage nevertheless took place, Napoleon being of the opinion, like Mrs. Malaprop, that married life had better commence with a little hatred. One morning the Duc de Croix was informed by his friend, the prefect of Maine, that Napoleon had resolved that that effect should be delivered to the Duc de Croix on the following day. But the duke was a man of some sense, and there being in the family a sensible cousin, one Ferdinand de Croix, a marriage between the two cousins was celebrated at midnight by the parish priest. When the formal order of Napoleon arrived the next morning, the duke replied that he was "desolated," but that his daughter had already married her cousin Ferdinand. But it was not safe to try to outwit the powerful emperor, and a few days afterwards the Duc de Croix was ordered to marry a Russian, from which country he eventually returned, minus an arm.

As late as 1812 the Minister of Police Savary issued a circular to all the prefects of departments, ordering them to send to Paris a list of all the bachelors in their respective departments, with full particulars as to age, personal charms and amount of property, either in possession or in expectation. These lists were sent to the emperor, who divided his time impartially between their perusal and the monthly returns of the positions of his regiments and their presumed equipments. In fact, the emperor, whether from policy or freak, or from both, was an inveterate matchmaker and never troubled himself about the "consentations scruples" of either the ladies or gentlemen concerned.—American Register.

The Quince Blossom.

The beauty of the apple blossom has been sung by the bard and for ages, but the quince blossom has in some ways failed to attract notice, though it is a lovely flower, at first a cone of five close wrapped pink petals that gradually unfold till there is a globe slightly opened at the top, showing the yellow anthers within. The petals keep one deep pink edge, the rest getting paler till the opposite side is almost white. Finally the flower opens into a flat, daisy-like disk, with the pistils holding up the group of yellow anthers like a group of pink stems. The glossy green quince leaf, with its white satin under-side, fits well with the flowers, and so does this cup that the glass blower in Murano made by rolling a white hot bulb of greenish glass over a sheet of gold leaf and blew and tossed and flattened on one end and cracked evenly on the other. It stood shoddy and gold looked, ready for those faraway New England quince blossoms.—Newport News.

A SONG OF SUNNY SIDES.

The sunny side of city life, what is it to the hills? O' sunning gleams, dawning, on the valleys an' the hills? What is it to the river banks where honey-suckles swing? To the peachfields where the mockin birds are primpin up for spring?

The sunny side of city life, what is it to the hills? That is tangled in the woodlands, where the purple on the white O' springtime's earliest blossoms seem blown into wind.

With the ruffled trees a-bendin a-bowin into wind.

"Howdy do!"

The sunny side of city life, the poets sing it all day.

An for the girls with glintin curls their city crosses twine.

But the brightest light is beamin from a wilder where the dew wet violets dreamin send messages to God.

—Frank L. Stanton in Chicago Inter Ocean.

OF MARGUERITE.

"A little, passionately—not at all!"

She sits the snow on the air.

And what care we how many petals fall?

"A little, passionately—not at all!"

She would not answer as if we should call.

Across the year, her visions are too fair.

And what care we how many petals fall?

She knows as not, nor rocks if she is fair.

With voice and creed and fashion of her hair.

"A little, passionately—not at all!"

Knee deep she goes in meadow grasses tall.

Raised by the daisies that her fingers tear.

And what care we how many petals fall?

"A little, passionately—not at all!"

And what care we how many petals fall?

—Ernest Dowson.

Not Ashamed of His Record.

"While waiting at a railroad station not many miles distant from Utica the other day for an east bound train," said a man, "a train passed going west. As the engine pulled out of the station a man with unusually long legs was seen running into one end of the depot and out of the other to the platform. He started after the moving train at a lively gallop. He carried two grips, one in either hand, and they swung to and fro in a laughable manner. On he went, and on the train went. He gained on the train at first, but the train was all the time picking up, and he finally stopped. He walked back leisurely, the conductors at the depot waiting till he came up to give him the laugh. As he approached them he dropped his grips, quietly put his hand in his pocket, pulled out a roll of bills, selected a \$10 note and exclaimed:

"I'll bet \$10 there is not a man in this whole crowd who can catch that train!"

"Of course there were no takers, nor did they even laugh at him for failing to catch the train himself either."—Utica Observer.

WEAKNESS OF HUMAN NATURE.

Exposure of People to Take Undue Advantage of a Practical Scheme.

"Do you remember me?" inquired the man as he quietly slipped up to the city editor's desk.

"I can't say that I do," replied the city editor, looking him over carefully.

"You remember I was in here some time ago giving policies of insurance on bunches of keys?"

"Oh, yes, I remember now. I took one."

"Of course. All wise men do. At the same time, if you recall it, I told you I had a great scheme for insuring umbrellas of the same plan?"

"I believe I do recall it. How did it come out?"

"The man threw up his hands hopelessly."

"Well," he said, "before that week was out I had my umbrella insurance company at work with agents all over town. The success was immediate and phenomenal. Everybody wanted to insure his umbrella. The premium was 50 cents a year. The amount to be paid to persons returning lost umbrellas was \$5—about the average price of an umbrella a man doesn't like to lose, you know. Agents turned in policies by the pocketfuls the first week. I hadn't any idea there were as many half dollars in circulation as I received at my office. Second week the success was even more phenomenal. Everybody wanted to insure his umbrella. The premium was 50 cents a year. The amount to be paid to persons returning lost umbrellas was \$5—about the average price of an umbrella a man doesn't like to lose, you know. Agents turned in policies by the pocketfuls the first week. I hadn't any idea there were as many half dollars in circulation as I received at my office. Second week the success was even more phenomenal. 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